GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:125
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2016
Natural Gas Production
Gopalakrishnan Shri R.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is largely dependent on import of natural gas due to mismatch in demand and supply of natural gas in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to recoup the domestic production of natural gas;
(c) whether the unavailability of pipeline network is one of the reasons for such deficiency; and
(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government to step up exploration and production of natural gas and laying pipeline infrastructure for transportation of natural gas across the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)
(a) & (b): The net domestic gas production, import of LNG and the import dependency for the last three years is mentioned at Annexure-I. There is a mismatch in the demand for natural gas and the domestic gas availability and LNG has been imported in the country to meet the demand.
? Government has taken various policy and administrative initiatives to enhance the performance of hydrocarbon sector in the country. Some of the policy decisions taken by the Government in recent years are as under:
? Government has approved a new Hydrocarbon and Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP) and same has been notified on 30th March 2016.
? Government has approved policy for auctioning of 67 discovered small fields of ONGC/OIL through international competitive bidding for early monetization.
? Marketing and Pricing freedom for new gas production from Deepwater, Ultra Deepwater and High Pressure-High Temperature areas subject to certain conditions.
? Policy for grant of extension to the Production Sharing Contracts of 28 small and medium sized discovered blocks.
? Policy Framework for relaxation, extensions and clarifications at the development and production stage under PSC regime for early monetization of hydrocarbon discoveries.
? New Domestic Natural Gas price Guidelines, 2014: Under these guidelines, gas price has been linked to the market/ important hub prices.
? Appraisal of about 1.5 million sq. km un-appraised area of the Indian Sedimentary Basins.
? Re-assessment of Hydrocarbon Resources.
? National Data Repository has been setup.
? Policy for exploration and exploitation of Shale Gas/Shale Oil resources by NOCs under the Nomination Regime.
? Policy for exploration in the Mining Lease (ML) areas after the expiry of exploration period.
? Policy on Non−exclusive Multi-client Speculative Survey for assessment of unexplored sedimentary basins has been operationalized.
(c) & (d): Over the last 30 years, Gas pipeline infrastructure in the country is being developed in synchronization with the development of gas sources (Domestic + Imported LNG) and upcoming projects of major gas consuming sectors i.e. Fertilizer, Power, LPG manufacturing, Refinery, Petrochemical, Steel, other industrial units and City Gas Distribution (CGD) sector. At present, the country is having about 15,000 Km long Natural Gas pipeline network in operation. The details of existing gas pipeline are at Annexure-II. In order to set up the National Gas Grid across the country, Government of India has identified a number of pipelines and spur-line pipeline sections of total length of about 15,000 km. Out of the envisaged 15,000 Km additional gas pipeline, PNGRB/GoI has already authorized entities to construct about 13,000 Km long pipelines. The current status of under-construction gas pipelines as a part of National Gas Grid is placed at Annexure-III.
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